HYDROSEEDING

DEFINITION & PURPOSE

Hydroseeding is a method of seeding that consists of applying a mixture of water, seed, wood fiber, and soil stabilizer (if used) with hydroseeding equipment.

CONDITIONS FOR EFFECTIVE USE

To select appropriate hydroseeding mixtures, an evaluation of site conditions shall be performed with respect to: soil conditions, site topography, season and climate, vegetation types, maintenance requirements, sensitive adjacent areas, water availability, and plans for permanent vegetation (if hydroseeding is done for temporary vegetation). Soil should be loose (un-compacted) at time of application. For best results, cover the hydroseed layer with a mulch layer to help protect the seed from wind and erosion, retain soil moisture, and control soil temperature during establishment. Mulching should also be used when there is not sufficient time in the season to ensure adequate vegetation establishment and coverage for erosion control. Conduct a soil test to determine if soil amendments are needed. Fertilizer should only be applied if a soil test indicates it is needed. The hydroseeding mixture should be determined by an industry professional. See MDNR Guide Section 6-87 for additional guidance.

INSTALLATION/CONSTRUCTION PROCEDURES

Hydroseeding should be done immediately after completion of a phase of grading. Hydroseeding can be accomplished using a multiple-step or one-step process. The multiple-step process ensures maximum direct contact of the seeds to soil. When the one-step process is used to apply the mixture of seed, fiber, etc., the seed rate shall be increased to compensate for all seeds not having direct contact with the soil. Follow-up applications shall be made as needed to cover weak spots. Avoid overspray on existing vegetation, waterways, sidewalks, and roadways. Straw or other mulch should be applied to reduce the erosive capacity of stormwater and keep soil and seed in place.

OPERATION & MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES

Inspect every week and within 48 hours after every rain event that causes stormwater runoff to occur on-site. Hydroseeded areas should be inspected for failures and re-seeded and mulched within the planting season, using not less than half the original application rates.

ROBUST ALTERNATIVES:

- Sod
- Turf reinforcement mat
- Control Blankets